

Abstract of the Disclosure

A retarder and circular polarizer are disclosed. They comprise at least two adjacent layers respectively formed of a composition comprising a liquid-crystalline compound, in which the liquid-crystalline molecules are fixed in an alignment state disposed on or above a substrate wherein no alignment layer is substantially disposed between the two layers. As one embodiment of the present invention, the retarder wherein the lower layer is formed of a composition comprising a liquid-crystalline compound and a non-crystalline polymer is also disclosed.